Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124736
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 VO-05 CA-01 INR-10 L-03 /036 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
HA/ORM:LARTHUR
CA/VO:JOLENIK
HA/HR:SEPALMER
----------119572 170033Z /62
P 162145Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124736

STADIS//////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SREP, PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI CHRISTIANS: IRAQI STATEMENT OF NON-PROSECUTION

REF: BAGHDAD 1024

1. REFTEL MAKES MUCH CLEARER TO US THE ACTUAL ATMOSPHERICS OF YOUR EXCHANGE WITH ANBARI ON THE IRAQI CHRISTIANS. THE PROBLEM COMES DOWN TO THIS. THE IRAQIS MIGHT WANT TO ISSUE A STATEMENT OF NON-PERSECUTION ACROSS THE BOARD FOR CERTAIN MINORITIES. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT COULD NOT TREAT THIS AS A CREDIBLE GUARANTEE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION IN ASYLUM OR OTHER CASES, SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT EVENTUALLY DO SOME GOOD FOR PEOPLE LIVING UNDER THE REGIME. IT MIGHT EVEN GET THE IRAQI REGIME TO THINK MORE SERIOUSLY ABOUT ITS
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APPALLING HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. THEREFORE, WE WOULD NOT WANT ACTIVELY TO DISCOURAGE THE ISSUANCE OF ANY SWEEPING DECLARATIONS BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD NOT WANT TO LET THE IRAQIS THINK IT WOULD RESULT IN THE REPATRIATION TO IRAQ OF IRAQIS SEEKING ASYLUM.

2. THERE MIGHT BE SOME FURTHER ORE TO BE MINED WITH ANBARI.

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THE IRAQIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.
PERHAPS YOU COULD IN FURTHER TALKS LEAD ANBARI INTO THINKING
HOW THIS IMAGE MIGHT BE IMPROVED IN CREDIBLE WAYS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 may 1978
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